

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1. – 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A cleansing method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a cleansing processing agent in a solid state which is (1) non-water soluble and (2) comprises a polymer having 20 to 50 mol % of acrylonitrile and 50 to 80 mol % of at least one of styrene and conjugated diene as a constituent unit,

(b) treating said polymer ~~treated~~ with an acid and/or an alkali to convert via hydrolysis the acrylonitrile into hydrophilic substituents and/or introduce ionic substituents into the said polymer;

(c)[(b)] contacting said agent with a material to be cleaned, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; and

(d)[(c)] absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound from the material to be cleaned, thereby forming a solid content containing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound.

43. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is effluent water or an exhaust gas that is passed through a column charged with the cleansing processing agent.

44. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the cleansing processing agent is dispersed into effluent water.

45. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is a solid material.

46. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the cleansing processing agent is sprayed onto the material to be cleaned.

47. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is soil in a landfill.

48. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is odor-emitting material.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the preprocessed polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR).

51. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the acid is sulfuric acid.

52. - 54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer contains a pigment.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer is mixed into a starting material composed at least of wood, plastics, paper, glass and metal, and a resulting mixture is molded to a pre-set shape.